submitted a project proposal covering 32 Class-I towns of the State seeking ODA (UK) assistance which has been forwarded to ODA (UK) for consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The completion dates are mentioned given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

I. HYDERABAD SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE-III:

1.	Total approved cost of the project	-	Rs. 42.75 crores
2.	Duration of the Project	-	1989-90 to December, 1996 (Accounts are being finalised)
3.	No. of slums proposed to be covered	-	300
4.	No. of persons proposed to be covered	-	4.50 lakhs

II. VISAKHAPATNAM SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT :

1.	Total approved cost of the Project	-	Rs. 28.59 crores
2.	Duration of the Project	-	1988-89 to March, 1996 (Completion report submitted to ODA)
3.	No. of slums proposed	-	198
4.	No. of persons proposed to be covered	-	2.00 lakhs

III. VIJAYAWADA SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT :

1.	Total approved cost of the Project	-	Rs. 49.15 crores.
2.	Duration of the Project.	-	1990-91 to June, 1997
3.	No. of slums proposed to be covered	-	136
4.	No. of persons proposed to be covered	-	2.47 lakhs

Metro Rail Service

2238. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Metro Rail Service in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith route suggested therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to link ISBT to Central Secretatriat under the Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon; and

(f) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Delhi MRTS Project was approved by the Union Government in September, 1996. The first phase of the project covers rout length of 55.3 Kms. which includes surface/elevated Rail System from Shahadara to Nangloi, Subzi Mandi to Holambi Kalan and underground rail from Central Secretariat to Vishwa Vidyalaya. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4860 crores at April, 1996 prices.

(c) and (d) Underground Metro Rail is proposed to be introduced from Central Secretariat to Vishwa Vidyalaya via Connaught Place, New/Old Delhi Railway Station, Chawri Bazar, ISBT, Old Secretariat measuring about 11.0 Kms.

(e) The total estimated cost for the Underground Metro Corridor is Rs. 2319 crores.

(f) Work on the project is likely to commence by January, 1999.

[Translation]

Per Capita Income in Bihar

2239. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been constant decline in the per capita income in Bihar since 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore; and

(c) the directions proposed to be given by the Union Government to remedy the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (c) No Sir. There has been no constant decline in the per capita income of Bihar as seen from the following table:

Year	Per Capita Net State Domestic Product At constant (1980-81) Prices (Rs.)
1990-91	1204
1991-92	1119
1992-93	1025
1993-94	1034
1994-95	1098 (Provisional)
1995-96	1149 (Quick estimate)

[English]

Foreign Mercenaries

2240. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign mercenaries working in Jammu and Kashmir to terrorise the people and the Government as a whole:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) It is a well known fact that Pak ISI has been actively involved in sponsoring, aiding and abetting terrorist and secessionist violence in J & K. For this it has continued to try and infiltrate armed and trained terrorists including, Pakistani nationals and other foreign mercenaries in J & K. It is not possible to indicate the precise number of foreign mercenaries in J & K. According to available information, 553 foreign mercenaries have been killed and 135 arrested till June 1997.

(c) Close watch is continuously kept on the activities of the militants including foreign mercenaries. The steps taken to contain terrorist activities include sustained vigilance/patrolling on the border/LOC and in the hinterland, active operations to flush out militants, establishment of pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening and reactivation of the local Police, strengthening of the intelligence machinery, streamlining of the arrangements for coordination among the various security agencies etc.

[Translation]

Vacancies of SC/ST

2241. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appointments made in the Department of Ocean Development during the last three years, till date, categorywise;

(b) the number out of them belong to SC/ST, category-wise;

(c) the number of vacancies reserved for SC/ST lying vacant in the Department, category-wise;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to fill these reserved vacancies; and

(e) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The number of appointments made in the Department of Ocean Development and the number of SC/ST candidates appointed category-wise during the last three years is as detailed below.

	No. of appointments made	No. of SC/ST appointments
Group A	12	1(SC)
Group B Non-Gazetted	2	NIL
Group C	4	2(1 SC; 1 ST)
Group D	10	3 (SC)
Total	28	6

(c): NIL

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Rocks from Mars

2242. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Martian gift to India lies ignored" appearing in the "The Hindustan Times" dated July 10, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reasons for conducting studies on collection of rocks from MARS?